



WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

Warren County Library Commission
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Regular Session – January 4, 2024

The Warren County Library Commission met in regular session at 5:45 p.m. on January 4, 2024, immediately following the reorganization meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Henry Newbold, and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Present: Henry A. Newbold, Patricia A. Rokosz
Alice A. Mollitor, Elizabeth Thomas, Cathleen Gerhardt

Administration: Maureen Baker Wilkinson, Library Director
Jill Butcher, Assistant Director
Jason Sarnoski, Warren County Commissioner Liaison,

Chairperson Henry Newbold stated that notice of the meeting had been properly advertised in the Star-Ledger and the Daily Record, and a notice had been sent to the Warren County Clerk’s Office.

Minutes

On motion by Patricia Rokosz, seconded by Alice Mollitor, the Minutes of the November 16, 2023, regular session, were approved, motion carried.

Voting Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms.Mollitor	X		
Mr. Newbold	X		
Ms. Rokosz	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		
Ms. Gerhardt	X		

On motion by Patricia Rokosz, seconded by Alice Mollitor, the Amended Minutes of the May 25, 2023, regular session, were approved, motion carried.

Voting Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Ms.Mollitor	X		
Mr. Newbold	X		
Ms. Rokosz	X		
Ms. Thomas	X		
Ms. Gerhardt	X		

Commission Comments & Questions regarding expenditure & program reports: - None

Communications – None.

Public Comment –Agenda Items - None.

Old Business - Staff Training In-Service day previously approved by the commission is set for January 31, 2024. It will be held from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. The morning session will be held with the Attorney doing a presentation on 1st Amendment rights and how it applies to Public Libraries , also discussing the legalities of labeling books on shelves, restricting access, and 1st Amendment Audits. The Commission has been asked, and encouraged to attend the morning session. The commission members were told that if they attended, the training would apply to the Trustee Training requirements for the 2024 year. Commissioner Rokosz asked about redistributing the Trustee Manual since we have two new members, and suggested they all receive a copy of it as it has been a while since they had reviewed it. She also requested some training links be sent to all the Commission members and inquired if they could do a group training day for the commission.

Director’s Report – The Library Director discussed the alternate site for the northern Warren County Library service point. She has been told it is in the St. Lukes Church in Hope and will be shared with the Department of Aging. The space is accessible with a grade level entrance. Director Wilkinson then stated that statistics are showing the CDH patrons are going to the NE branch, with NE circulation increasing approximately 1,000. The municipal office pickup location is circulating less than 200 items per month. The combined circulations from these locations is less than the usual CDH circulation of approximately 5,000. There was some discussion of this location in Hope vs. the Blainstown Administration Building where the CDH staff is making some availability of distributing items placed on hold to patrons.

Director Wilkinson stated that she was informed that the End-of-Construction date is February of 2025. After construction is complete, it will be at least a couple months before an opening date could be planned.

In closing, Director Wilkinson stated that she will get a gift for former Commission member Marilyn Barone in recognition of the many years she served on the Warren County Library Commission Board and as a county appointed board member on the Phillipburg Library Board. Director Wilkinson will contact members of the Library Commission that served with Marilyn about a possible time to present the gift.

New Business - None.

Closing Public Comment - Chairperson Henry Newbold asked if there was any closing public comments, a Zoom attendee, Cybele Tamulonis asked if the Warren County Commission took into consideration the 7,000+ students in the area of CDH when deciding to lease the church location in Hope. The WC Liaison to the Library, Jason Sarnoski said in response that the lease of a location was not planned in the budget and due to financial restrictions, they could not enter into an expensive lease as it was not in the budget, also stating that once the \$6M of tax payers money completed the construction the students would have a brand new CDH library branch at their disposal.

The next Closing Public Comment came from Judy McDonnell, the one person in public seating. She again brought up “sexually explicit” books in the library and said if the Library did not need to follow ALA guidelines why did they? She also asked several questions regarding the Minutes being posted for previous meetings.

The third person to make a Closing Public Comment was another Zoom attendee, Sandy Roberts. She expressed her appreciation to the Library for not restricting the selection of books, therefore giving the Parents the ability to decide what their child can read and the right to choose and decide whether their child should be restricted.

The fourth and last person to make a Closing Public Comment was another Zoom attendee, Cynthia Smith. Ms. Smith asked another question about the location of the CDH alternate site at the church. She wanted to know what the rent was costing. Director Wilkinson said she was not informed of the rent cost. Ms. Smith asked if it was a “done deal” and Director Wilkinson stated that she was told it was a done deal. Assistant Director Butcher said she was told that they were still negotiating the rental expense. Ms. Smith asked how a done deal could be done if it was still in negotiations.

Executive Session - Not required.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Henry Newbold, seconded by Alice Mollitor, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. to be held at the Richard D Gardner Branch of the Warren County Library with a virtual link also available on the Library website calendar.

Attested to:



Alice A. Mollitor, Recording Secretary